

REMARKS

Claims 9 and 11-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-8 and 10 have been cancelled. Claim 9 has been amended to independent form. New claims 11-25 have been added, for which support may be found in the originally filed claims. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by way of the present amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over US 5,075,377 to Kawabuchi et al. (hereinafter "Kawabuchi '377"). Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over US 2005/0137312 to DuBois (hereinafter "DuBois '312").

On page 3, paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In accordance with the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter, claim 9 has been amended in independent form. New claims 11-25 each incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 9, and therefore should also be allowable. The present claim amendments overcome the outstanding rejections and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal thereof.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Monique T. Cole, Reg. No. 60,154 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

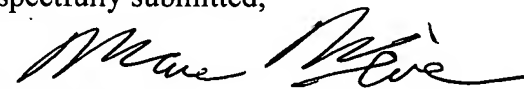
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

MAY 10 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By



MTC

Marc S. Weiner

Registration No.: 32,181

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant